

§ 4280.188 Grant funding for energy audit and renewable energy development assistance.

(a) *Maximum grant amount.* The maximum aggregate amount of energy audit and renewable energy development assistance grants awarded to any one recipient under this subpart cannot exceed \$100,000. Grant funds awarded for energy audit and renewable energy development assistance projects may be used only to pay eligible project costs, as described in paragraph (b) of this section. Grant funds awarded for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance projects are prohibited from being used to pay costs associated with the items listed in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) *Eligible project costs.* Eligible project costs for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance are those post-application expenses directly related to conducting and promoting energy audits and renewable energy development assistance, which include but are not limited to:

- (1) Salaries directly or indirectly related to the project;
- (2) Travel expenses directly related to conducting energy audits or renewable energy development assistance;
- (3) Office supplies (e.g., paper, pens, file folders); and
- (4) Administrative expenses, up to a maximum of 5 percent of the grant, which include but are not limited to:
 - (i) Utilities;
 - (ii) Office space;
 - (iii) Operation expenses of office and other project-related equipment (e.g., computers, cameras, printers, copiers, scanners); and
 - (iv) Expenses for outreach and marketing of the energy audit and renewable energy development assistance activities, including associated travel expenses.

(c) *Ineligible project purposes.* Grant funds may not be used to:

- (1) Pay for any construction-related activities;
- (2) Purchase equipment;
- (3) Pay any costs of preparing the application package for funding under this subpart;
- (4) Pay any costs of the project incurred prior to the application date of the grant made under this subpart;

(5) Fund political or lobbying activities; and

(6) Pay any judgment or debt owed to the United States.

(d) *Energy audits.* A recipient of a grant under this subpart that conducts an energy audit shall require that, as a condition of the energy audit, the agricultural producer or rural small business pay at least 25 percent of the cost of the energy audit. Further, the amount paid by the agricultural producer or rural small business will be retained by the recipient as a contribution towards the cost of the energy audit.

(e) *Time limit.* Unless otherwise agreed to by the Agency, any energy audit or renewable energy development assistance grant agreement under this subpart will terminate 2 years from the date the Agency signs the agreement.

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§ 4280.190 EA/REDA grant applications—content.

Applications must contain the elements specified in paragraphs (a) through (g) of this section.

- (a) Form SF-424.
- (b) Form SF-424A.
- (c) Form SF-424B.
- (d) If applicable, a copy of the applicant's organizational documents showing the applicant's legal existence and authority to perform the activities under the grant.
- (e) A proposed scope of work, including a description of the proposed project, details of the proposed activities to be accomplished and timeframes for completion of each task, the number of months duration of the project, and the estimated time it will take from grant approval to beginning of project implementation. A written narrative to be used as the scope of work which includes, at a minimum, the following items:

- (1) An Executive Summary;
- (2) The plan and schedule for implementation;
- (3) The anticipated number of agricultural producers and/or rural small businesses to be served;
- (4) An itemized budget—compute total cost per rural small business or

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agricultural producer served—matching funds should be clearly identified as cash;

(5) The geographic scope of the proposed project;

(6) Applicant's experience as follows:

(i) If applying for a renewable energy development assistance grant, the applicant's experience in completing similar renewable energy development assistance activities, including the number of similar projects the applicant has performed and the number of years the applicant has been performing a similar service.

(ii) If applying for an energy audit grant, the number of energy audits and assessments the applicant has completed and the number of years the applicant has been performing those services;

(iii) For all applicants, the amount of experience in administering energy audit, renewable energy development assistance, or similar activities using State or Federal support.

(7) Applicant's resources, including personnel, finances, and technology, to complete what is proposed. If an application is for projects located in multiple states, resources must be sufficient to complete all projects;

(8) Leveraging and commitment of other sources of funding being brought to the project. Leveraged funds should be clearly identified as cash and by source. Written documentation/confirmation from the party committing a specific amount of leveraged funds is required;

(9) Outreach activities/marketing efforts specific to conducting energy audit and renewable energy development assistance including:

(i) Project title;

(ii) Goals of the project;

(iii) Identified need;

(iv) Target audience;

(v) Timeline and type of activities/action plan; and

(vi) Marketing strategies.

(10) Method and rationale used to select the areas and businesses that will receive the service.

(11) Brief description of how the work will be performed, including whether organizational staff, consultants, or contractors will be used.

(f) The most recent financial audit (not more than 18 months old) of the applicant, or subdivision thereof, that will be performing the proposed work. If such an audit is not available, the latest financial information that shows the financial capacity of the applicant, or subdivision thereof, to perform the proposed work. Such information may include, but is not limited to, the most recent year-end balance sheet, income statement, and other appropriate data that identify the applicant's resources.

(g) The applicant's Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.

§ 4280.191 Evaluation of energy audit and renewable energy development assistance grant applications.

Upon receipt of an application, the Agency will conduct a review to determine if the applicant and project are eligible. The Agency will notify the applicant in writing of the Agency's findings. If the Agency has determined that either the applicant or project is ineligible, it will include in the notification the reason(s) for its determination(s).

§ 4280.192 Scoring energy audit and renewable energy development assistance grant applications.

Agency personnel will score each application using the criteria specified in paragraphs (a) through (h) of this section, with a maximum score of 100 points possible.

(a) *Project proposal (maximum score of 10 points).* The applicant will be scored based on its in-house ability to conduct audits versus using third party auditing organizations as illustrated in the application.

(1) If the applicant proposes to use at least 51 percent of the awarded funding to employ internal, qualified auditors and/or renewable energy specialists for program implementation, up to 10 points will be awarded as follows:

(i) If the percentage is between 51 percent and 75 percent (inclusive), 5 points will be awarded.

(ii) If the percentage is more than 75 percent, 10 points will be awarded.

(2) If the applicant proposes to use less than 51 percent of the awarded funding to employ internal, qualified